

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A vehicle having a front part, a rear part and a longitudinal axis, and comprising:

a passenger compartment provided with seats located at the rear of the passenger compartment;

a vehicle structure with respect to which at least two rigid parts of a retractable roof are free to move, respectively a first, front part and a second, rear part, said rigid roof parts being free to move between an extended position reached at the end of a forwards movement, and in which said parts cover the passenger compartment and are substantially in line one behind the other, and a folded position reached at the end of a rearwards movement and in which said parts are offset from each other and retracted into a roof storage space located behind the seats; and

an add-on modular roof assembly added as a single part onto the vehicle structure, said assembly comprising:

the retractable roof and its rigid parts;

a retractable roof support body connected to the vehicle structure; and

a roof parts movement mechanism connected to said roof rigid parts and supported on the support body for moving the roof rigid parts with respect to the roof opening, between their extended and folded positions, once the modular roof assembly is positioned inside the vehicle, wherein the modular roof assembly is positioned inside the vehicle using guiding housing and locking elements provided partly on the vehicle structure and partly on the support frame such that the support frame is positioned facing the guiding housing elements of the vehicle structure, and the vehicle structure locally defines a roof opening closeable by means of the retractable roof, said vehicle structure being adapted to house a sealed sliding movement of the roof parts along two fixed, lateral members disposed on both lateral sides along the roof opening.

2. (Previously Presented) The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein the roof parts occupy a substantially vertical position, adjacent to each other, when in their folded position.

3. (Previously Presented) The vehicle according to claim 1, characterized in that one of the guiding housing and locking elements provided on the vehicle structure and the support body of the modular roof assembly comprises two cradles aligned perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, and the other of said guiding housing and locking elements and said support body comprises two trunnions adapted to fit into the cradles, to enable pivoting of said modular roof assembly with respect to the vehicle structure.

4. (Previously Presented) The vehicle according to claim 3 wherein: the seats of the vehicle are installed on the structure so that they can be tilted forwards, and the vehicle further includes actuation means actuating the modular roof assembly, said actuation means comprising a control to tilt the modular roof assembly between said folded position of the roof parts, when they are arranged adjacent to each other, substantially vertically behind the seats, and a position tilted forwards in the passenger compartment, when said seats are already tilted forwards;

5. (Previously Presented) The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein: the support body and the movement mechanism for the roof parts define two blocks located laterally on each side of the longitudinal axis of the vehicle to clear an available space between said blocks; the roof storage space communicates with a vehicle trunk in which luggage is loaded; and the vehicle further comprises stop means to stop the modular roof assembly in a substantially horizontal position of the roof parts, thus superposed with respect to each other, the roof parts then clearing an additional available storage space underneath.

6. (Previously Presented) The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein: the roof comprises three rigid parts among which a third rigid part is arranged in front of the first front part, in the extended position; the second roof rear part comprises a rear window, and the movement mechanism for these roof parts comprises pivoting arms which are, at one end, hinged with respect to the support body, at two different locations, and are connected, at an other end, for one of said pivoting arms to the second roof rear part and, for the other, to the first roof front part, said other pivoting arm being connected to slides through a relative sliding movement between the first, front part and the third part of the roof, between the fixed lateral members.

7. (Previously Presented) The vehicle according to claim 1 wherein a housing casing is fixed to the modular roof assembly and houses said rigid roof parts when they reach their said folded position in which they are arranged substantially vertically.

8. (Previously Presented) The vehicle according to claim 7 wherein: the vehicle is provided with a rear shelf moving between a substantially horizontal position when said rigid roof parts are in their folded position, adjacent to each other, and a substantially vertical position, tilted forwards, during extension or folding of said roof rigid parts; said rear shelf substantially closes an upper part of the casing when it is in its substantially horizontal position and the roof parts are in the folded position inside said housing casing.

9. (Previously Presented) The vehicle according to claim 7 wherein at the rear of the vehicle, when the roof rigid parts are in the folded position, the housing casing comprises a movable panel installed free to pivot at a lower part about a fixed part connected and fixed to the support body of the modular roof assembly.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for fitting equipment on a vehicle the method comprising the following steps of: supplying a vehicle structure having a back and a top, and comprising a passenger compartment, and, a trunk and a windshield frame, between which [[an]] a roof opening located at the top of the passenger compartment and closeable by means of a retractable roof is defined, the vehicle structure being further provided with roof lateral members extending on both lateral sides of said roof opening, between said trunk and said windshield frame;

supplying a modular roof assembly; adapted to be added as a single part onto the vehicle structure, said assembly comprising:

the retractable roof which comprises at least a first, rigid roof part and a second, rigid roof part, said rigid roof parts being free to move between an extended position in which they cover the passenger compartment and a folded position in which they are retracted into a roof storage space delimited in the trunk; and

a retractable roof support body adapted to be locked to the vehicle structure;

inserting the modular roof assembly inside the vehicle structure from at least one of rear and the top thereof, through said roof opening ~~for the retractable roof~~;

positioning and locking said retractable roof support body facing guiding housing and locking elements provided on the vehicle structure;

then installing in the passenger compartment vehicle internal trim and seats.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, ~~wherein, when the~~ comprising providing the trunk with a trunk lid articulated on the vehicle structure and then inserting said modular roof assembly is inserted inside the vehicle between the trunk lid and the windshield frame, while the roof rigid parts are in their folded position.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 10, further comprising the step of adapting the vehicle structure to house a sliding movement of the roof rigid parts along said roof lateral members, between said extended position and folded position.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of providing the vehicle with slides, so that the roof rigid parts can move along said slides, between said extended position and folded position.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of attaching the slides to the retractable roof support body.

16. (Previously Presented) The vehicle according to claim 1, wherein each of said two fixed, lateral members are fixed onto the vehicle structure.